at least it will afford but small consolation to the wife and family of its victim (should he have left either behind) when they are made acquainted with the fatal consequences produced by it; deprived of the counsel and support of him, whom on all occasions they were used to look up to as their protector and friend. Left alone in the world! doomed, perhaps, to struggle with adversity, "to bear the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune," without that well known voice, which could even rob misfortune of half its sting, to cheer and comfort them! If the evil could be confined to that class of society who profess to be the leaders of fashion, and who, troubling themselves but little about the happiness or misery of their fellow creatures, are content to "fret their hour upon the stage," and then pass off to make way for others equally *worthy*, the mischief would not be so great, but unfortunately this is not the case; the force of example has such a powerful influence, that many whose education, would, perhaps, have led them to act very differently, seized with this mania, are hurried headlong to an untimely grave! Such are the dismal effects too often produced by this savage custom! Pause, therefore, ye votaries of fashion, behold the baneful influence of your example! Reflect upon the consequences, ye who in your intercourse with society, scorn to do a mean or unworthy action, yet are rashly impelled by a false idea of honour, to act contrary to the suggestions of reason and of virtue, before you risk precipitating yourselves and others into this gulph of misery! Behold the agony and grief of your wives and children; consider the calamities which your blind imprudence is likely to entail upon them; suffer the benign influence of humanity to take possession of your minds, and if the heart be not lost to every finer feeling, when these considerations are suffered to have due weight, weak, indeed, will appear all the flimsy pretensions of honour. Should you think these remarks worthy a place in your Magazine, they are at your service.

A FRIEND.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOUR intelligent correspondent, A. Z. gives an excellent method of saving Bees; yet he omits a very important part, that of feeding them when they have not a sufficiency of honey. Permit me, through the medium of your useful work, to request A. Z. or any other of your readers who may be sufficiently informed on the subject, to communicate his opinion to the public.

Bangor. A FARMER.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

Communications on Potatoes, by Dr. Wright of Edinburgh. (Extracted from the Report of the Board of Agriculture, in England.)

POTATOE FLOUR.

IN the simple analysis of the potatoe, we find it is composed of three distinct and essential principles. First, a mucilaginous juice, which has no peculiar properties. Secondly, a fibrous, light and gray-coloured matter, like that contained in the roots of many pot-herbs. Thirdly, a dry powder resembling starch from grain. To obtain this powder, the process is easy: the fresh potatoes must be washed clean, and grated into a clean vessel; this pulp is next put into a hair-sieve, and mixed with cold water; when by repeated effusions of water, the strainings are no longer white or milky, what remains in the search may be put to one side; the strained liquor is suffered to settle, and the brown coloured water, drained off and thrown away. Repeated quantities of cold water are then poured on the white hard mass, well stirred up each time; and when settled, and the water poured off till the sediment is perfectly white, this matter is then taken out, and the lumps broken down, and put

upon paper to dry. If the potatoe is ground by means of a wheel grater, or cylinder shod with a grater, the process will be shortened. A hopper may be adapted to one side of the grater, in such a manner as to assist in rubbing down the potatoe, without putting to the hand.

This powder of the potatoe is obtained in different proportions, according to the goodness of the potatoe itself: at an average, two ounces of the powder may be got from one pound of potatoes. Potatoe flour or powder thus made, is no way different from starch made from grain; and answers many purposes in domestic economy. Bowen's Sago powder is no other than the starch of potatoes; as the Tapioca from Brazil is the starch of Cassada. These articles are sold in the shops at an advanced price; and as the Sago powder was laid in by government, for the sick, in ships of war, it may be now made in any quantity, and at a trifling expense.

Potatoe flour makes all sorts of pastry of a superior quality to common wheat flour, and if mixed with sweet milk, eggs, and sugar, in due proportions, makes excellent custards, or puddings.

POTATOE BREAD.

The most mealy potatoes are to be chosen: when boiled and peeled, they are beaten and rolled smooth on a table with a rolling-pin; then kneaded with an equal quantity of wheat flour, with a sufficiency of yeast, water and salt (this, bakers call sponge) the dough is set for a night in a warm place, and by next morning, if the yeast is good, it will have risen, and is ready to be made into loaves, rolls, &c. This bread is much lighter and sweeter than flour bread, and keeps moist for many days. All will depend on kneading the dough well, and keeping it long enough in the oven, till it is thoroughly baked. Yeast. This article at times is very scarce: to increase its quantity is an object of importance to the bakers of bread. Several bakers of my acquaintance, have taken the hint from me, and now are no way at a loss for yeast. Potatoes boiled and skinned are put into a sufficient quantity of water, and boiled over a slow fire till the whole becomes smooth, and of the consistence of pap. To two English gallons of this, an English quart of good yeast is added; the vessel set in a warm place, twelve or sixteen hours, when the whole becomes yeast of a good quality, and fit for the purposes of the baker as well as the brewer.

In the present advancing prices of flour, it may be worthy the attention of families to try the experiments as recommended above. Potatoe flour is a good starch, and mixed with wheaten flour, makes a very nice light bread. The mode recommended without reducing the potatoes to the form of flour, has been tried at the public bakery of Lisburn, and found to answer. An addition of from six to eight stones of potatoes to a bag containing 2 cwt. of third flour, has been found to improve the quality of the bread, and to afford an increase of three ounces to the thirteen-penny brown loaf.

The yeast as recommended in the foregoing paper, has been also tried at the Lisburn public bakery, and found to answer very well, making the bread both lighter and fairer, with a considerable saving of expense in the article of barm. It is particularly useful in summer, when barm is scarce.

A Statical Lamp, which maintains the Oil at nearly an equal level.

THIS Lamp has a spherical cavity, communicating by a pipe, with an oil vessel, and burner, formed on Argand's, or the common construction, that is somewhat higher than it; within this cavity, a solid of a hemispherical shape is suspended, on a horizontal axis, the greatest part of which will float above a strong brine, with which the cavity, is half-filled; the pipe, burner, and oil vessel, are filled with oil, and as this is consumed, the brine running in to supply its place below, raises it to a proper height, while the hemispherical solid occupies the space left by the brine in the cavity, by falling lower as the brine passes beneath the oil. The principle of this apparatus is produced by the great specific weight of the brine, which keeps the oil at a proportionally higher elevation, the use of the solid hemisphere is to preserve the level of the brine. An instrument of this kind is said to have been many years ago con-

trived by Dr. Hooke. The above is described in the Philosophical Journal, in a paper signed, A. F.

Stand for Shoemaker's work.

Mr. Thomas Parker has contrived a bench at which shoemakers can work in a standing posture; it consists of a perforated board, whose edge is surrounded with a cushion, covered with leather, and supported by four legs; it thus somewhat resembles a bason-stand. It is four feet high, the perforation is about six inches in diameter; the shoe and last are laid across the above annular cushions, and is retained firmly by an end cross strap, which passes round it, and descends to a treadle, on which the workman rests his foot: a little flat leather cushion, used in adjusting the last and strap, and a small triangular prism of wood, on which boots are closed, complete the apparatus. Mr. Parker received fifteen guineas for this contrivance, from the Society for Arts, &c.

Hawthorn propagated by Cuttings of the Roots.

Mr. Taylor, of Morton, has discovered, that hawthorn hedges may be formed in a more expeditious manner than usual, by cutting the roots of this shrub into small pieces, and placing them with the top one-fourth of an inch above the ground; the upper end of each piece may be marked, when cutting, by giving it two cuts, and the lower end but one.

The spring is the best time to plant the sets. Of those planted by Mr. Taylor, not five in one hundred were lost. For this discovery Mr. Taylor received the silver medal from the Society for arts, &c.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF THE REV. THEOPHILUS LINDSAY, A. M. FORMERLY FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, AND VICAR OF CATTERICK IN YORKSHIRE.

PRINCIPLE is so extremely valuable, that when a striking instance of it appears, in opposition to the prevailing selfishness of the age, it is doing a service to the community to let such characters reflect their lustre, and be generally spread, that their excellent example may not be lost, but encourage others to similar faithfulness. The use of those examples is not lessened, whether we agree in opinion with such exhibiters of principle or not. It is a strict and honourable adherence to *principle*, which deserves to be held up to imitation, and which is the more necessary in the present day, when so much casuistry has been employed to reconcile the subscribing to one set of doctrines, and the believing in another. A man should honestly avow his sentiments, and patiently submit to the inconvenience of holding them. If he believes them to be true, a consciousness of upright intention, wonderfully supports a man under every difficulty, while *if he has not the approbation of his own mind*, the possession of wealth or other enjoyments, will not confer permanent felicity. We therefore take the opportunity of making our readers acquainted with the character of Theophilus Lindsay, recently deceased, and so well known in England, for his undaunted assertion of thinking for himself, and for which he nobly made great worldly sacrifices. For the particulars in the annexed sketch, we are indebted to the London Monthly Magazine, of last month. Care has been taken to leave out such parts, as might have a tendency to lead into theological controversy; as the aim is rather to display a man acting according to the strict dictates of conscience, than to enter into the merits of the opinions, which he held.

Theophilus Lindsay was born at Middlewich, in Cheshire, June 20th, 1723, old style. His father Mr. Robert Lindsay, was an opulent proprietor of the salt-works there, and highly esteemed for his integrity and worth; and his mother was an excellent and